

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, before the paragraph starting at line 4, please insert the following heading and paragraph:

--JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT

The invention of this application was developed under a joint research agreement between Heraeus Quarzglas & Co. KG and Shin-Etsu Quartz Products, Ltd., to which a linked agreement was executed between Heraeus Quarzglas GmbH & Co., Shin-Etsu Quartz Products, Ltd., and Heraeus Shin-Etsu America, Inc.--